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# Reading Matters!

*From the desks of Sherry Manley, Ashley Richardella, Jen Herncane, and Robyn Eckels—Early Literacy Coaches*

## Why is Fluency Important?

*Ideas from I've DIBEL'd, Now What? By Susan Hall*

### FLUENCY

#### Why is it so important?

Reading fluency has sometimes been called the "neglected" component of reading. Until recently, core reading curricula has given very little attention to the need to build fluency. In fact, there is still no accepted definition for it.

*Put Reading First* defines fluency as "the ability to read a text accurately and quickly. Fluent readers group words together in ways that help them gain meaning from what they are reading. They're reading as if they're speaking."

Fluency is NOT simply reading with extreme speed. In order to read fluently, \*\*the reader must be able to read rapidly enough to hold the meaning until the end of the sentence.\*\*

#### When is a student ready for Fluency Building?

Students are not ready for activities designed to build fluency until they can read words accurately. The lower level, decoding, skills have to be in place before you can start building the student's fluency.

Working on fluency before a student can read words accurately is like trying to work on speed in bike riding before the child has his pedaling skills mastered.

Students who ARE ready for fluency building activities read accurately but very slowly. Fluency activities are designed to improve speed and rhythm when reading.

### HOW DO I START BUILDING MY STUDENTS' FLUENCY?

One of the strongest research findings is the positive relationship between fluency and comprehension. WHY? It is necessary to read fluently to have attention to dedicate to comprehension instead of dedicating all attention to decoding unknown words.

Although it does happen, It is truly uncommon for students to decode very well and with speed but not comprehend as they read.

#### ORF Measures

Research shows that one minute measures of ORF – Oral Reading Fluency – are known to be the best measures of reading ability. This is the exact measure that is given to your first and second grade students when they are progressed monitored.

#### Fluency Building Techniques

The primary technique for building fluency is repeated readings, where the student rereads a passage aloud or with an adult or peer who can provide guidance.

Research supports that rereading the same passage helps build fluency not only in that passage, but other passages as well.

Two ideas to implement repeated readings in your classroom are: 1) Reread a passage orally with guidance, individually, or in groups.

2) Students can reread a passage while listening to a passage on tape for feedback on accurate decoding of the words.

**NOTE** \*\*While silent reading may be useful for building vocabulary and other skills, there is no adequate research to validate this practice for

Please visit the Coaches Website

@  
coaches4.wikispaces.com for:

Wilson Fluency Builders, HFW Fluency Builders, Skill based Fluency Builders and other resources and activities to use to continue building your students' fluency!

## Word Sorts

Information presented by Lori Elliott at SDE Conference for First Grade Teachers

What is a word sort?

A strategy for understanding words and word parts. Students learn by doing. Students analyze a set of word cards for similarities and then sort the words into categories.

### Types of Word Sorts

Picture sort: Early learners sort picture cards into categories based on sounds.

Teacher Directed sort: Teachers define the categories and model sorting. The teacher shares with students the key word or word part students should use in the sorting.

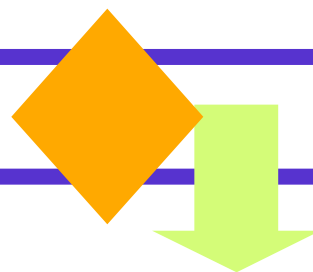
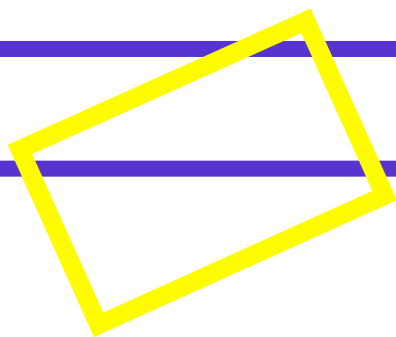
Student-Centered sort (open sort): Students examine all the words in the sort and decide the categories for sorting the words. They sort the words based on this prediction.

Guess My Category sort: The teacher shows two or three pictures or words in each group. Then, as picture cards or word cards are selected, the students guess which category it would fit. This is a great strategy for exploring content vocabulary.

Speed sorts: A word sort done with a stopwatch or in the form of a race with another student or group. This strategy can help students build fluency.

Concept sorts: Students sort word cards for meaning. This is helpful when working with content vocabulary/ introducing vocabulary in reading.

Please be sure to check out the word sort activities on our website:  
[www.coaches4.wikispaces.com](http://www.coaches4.wikispaces.com)



Learning is not  
a spectator  
sport.

---Anonymous



## Story Headline

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. Newsletters can be a great way to market your product or service, and also create credibility and build your organization's identity among peers, members, employees, or vendors.

First, determine the audience of the newsletter. This could be anyone who might benefit from the information it contains, for example, employees or people interested in purchasing a product or requesting your service.

You can compile a mailing list from business reply cards, customer information sheets, Business cards collected at trade shows, or membership lists. You might consider purchasing a mailing list from a

company.

If you explore the Project Gallery, you will find many publications that match the style of your newsletter.

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish your newsletter at least quarterly so that it's considered a consistent source of information. Your customers or employees will look forward to its arrival.

Your headline is an important part of the newsletter and should be considered carefully.

## Story Headline

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Word offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

The subject matter that appears in

newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

***"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."***



Your business  
tagline can go  
here

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

## Back Page Story Headline

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

## About Our Organization...

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your

newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.